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RON RICHARD
SENATOR
DISTRICT 32

May 27, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As the current Vice Chairman of the Missouri Senate's Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee, I write to encourage you to support the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA. During my recent tenure as the Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, I fought hard to lessen the regulatory burden on industry because my experience as a legislator and a business owner proved time and again that innovation and entrepreneurship are more robust in an environment without excessive oversight.

My senate district is home to Joplin, Missouri. As a former mayor of Joplin, and a former state representative from that area, I know how important first-rate communications networks are for local communities. Moreover, I have seen firsthand the benefits of private telecommunications investment in Joplin. In 2007, AT&T opened a regional call center in Joplin that brought 600 permanent jobs and an estimated annual payroll of \$13 million.

Approval of this merger would allow AT&T to follow through on its promise to bring 4G LTE to 97% of America. Fulfilling this pledge would require large amounts of new private capital to be invested in communities all across the country, increasing the availability of high-speed broadband and providing a boost to local economies.

In my role as a state senator, I constantly look for opportunities to grow our economy and make Missouri a better place to live, work, and do business. Building out 4G networks would do that for Missouri and the rest of America. For these reasons, I urge you to support the proposed merger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald F. Richard".
Ron Richard
Senator